

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2330

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S E C R E T JAKARTA 6002

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VS VN ID

SUBJ: INDONESIA AND ICCS

REF: A. JAKARTA 5920 B. STATE 101571 C. JAKARTA 5998

1. IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING TELEGRAM (REF C) RECOUNTS MY CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN MALIK AND CLEAR INDICATION INDONESIA SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING PULLING OUT OF ICCS, IF DECISION IN FACT NOT ALREADY MADE.

2. WE HAVE FOR SOME TIME DETECTED CLEAR DOUBT ON PART OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO, GENERAL PANGGABEAN AND OTHER KEY INDONESIAN MILITARY OVER THEIR ROLE IN ICCS. INDONESIANS HAVE BEEN UNCOMFORTABLE IN CONFRONTATION WITH OTHER COMMUNIST ICCS MEMBERS ALTHOUGH THEIR PEOPLE ON SPOT HAVE ACTED FORTHRIGHTLY. IT WOULD NOW APPEAR THAT PRES SUHARTO AWARE OF INCREASED FIGHTING AND SUSPENSION OF GVN/PRG CONTACTS, FEELS INDONESIA CAN NO LONGER PLAY USEFUL AND HONORABLE ROLE. HE DOES NOT APPRECIATE, APPARENTLY, GREAT VALUE OF MERE PRESENCE OF ICCS. SUHARTO CAN QUICKLY AND IMPULSIVELY TAKE ACTION

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AFTER WHICH THERE IS LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING

HIS DIRECTION. THIS COULD HAPPEN ANY DAY ON ICCS.

3. DEPARTMENT'S VERY HELPFUL INSTRUCTIONS WITH MALIK (REF B) HAVE PERHAPS GIVEN US SOME BREATHING SPACE. I HOPE TO SEE STATE SECRETARY SUDHARMO TOMORROW AND REINFORCE EFFORT WITH MALIK. I BELIEVE TIME HAS COME, HOWEVER, TO RECOGNIZE PRECARIOUS STATE OF INDONESIAN PARTICIPATION AND TAKE SPECIFIC ACTIONS SHOWING IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO INDONESIA'S ROLE AND INDICATING OUR DESIRE FULLY TO SHARE ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION.

4. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND: (A) THAT WE OFFER TO SEND SENIOR US GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL FROM WASHINGTON INTIMATELY ACQUAINTED WITH ALL ASPECTS VIETNAM PROBLEM FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MALIK AND OTHERS. TWO NAMES I HAVE IN MIND ARE MONTEAGLE STEARNS AND GEORGE ALDRICH; (B) THAT SECRETARY AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY SEND MESSAGE TO FONMIN EXPRESSING IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES PERSONALLY TO INDONESIAN ROLE AND IF POSSIBLE GIVING INDICATIONS OF MOVES SECRETARY MAY BE TAKING IN VIETNAM AREA. (I BELIEVE CLEAR INDICATION OF FURTHER ACTIVE STEPS BY SECRETARY, STRESSING THAT CONTINUED EXISTENCE ICCS IMPORTANT FOR SUH STEPS, WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON INDONESIAN THINKING). BOTH FOREGOING STEPS DESIGNED DEMONSTRATE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO GOI ROLE AS WELL AS OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE ON ISSUE ITSELF AND POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC ROLE FOR INDONESIA.
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